

“GREEN SHEET”

(Rev. 3/1/00)

Meeting/workshop:	February 16, 2007 Commission Conference Call (briefing only)
Agenda item:	2006 Lake Rehabilitation Program Summary
Prepared by:	Jon Anderson, Native Resident Species Fisheries Manager, and Bob Gibbons, Inland/Anadromous Fish Manager, Fish Program

Background:

The Department has been treating lakes with rotenone, a naturally derived piscicide, since 1940 to reduce or eliminate populations of undesirable fish species. The current program is focused on about 165 lakes/ponds in eastern Washington, to control non-native warm-water species (carp, tench, bass, sunfish, perch, bullhead catfish, etc.) in lakes that are managed for trout fisheries.

In 2006, department staff treated McDowell Lake (Stevens Co.), Pearrygin and Long lakes (Okanogan Co.) and Rainbow/Vic Myers, Alkali, Park and Blue lakes (Grant Co.). Additionally, a number of ponds on the North Potholes Wildlife Area were treated to remove carp and bullfrog tadpoles with the intent to improve waterfowl habitat and benefit native Leopard frogs.

McDowell Lake was a real highlight because we have been trying for years to treat it and everything came together with the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge because we were able to coordinate our activity with the refuge's aquatic weed treatment.

The other high profile treatment was Park Lake. A family that owned land on the lake tried numerous actions to prevent treatment including requesting a “stay” from the State Water Pollution Control Board. In the end, we were able to show that all application requirements were met and the treatment was completed in November just before the weather turned bad.

The department's water quality variance permit from the Department of Ecology expired in December of 2006. We are now in the process of obtaining a new five-year permit, which will require a risk assessment for rotenone and antimycin.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

None. Staff will give a brief review of the 2006 program and answer any questions commissioners may have on program or activities related to obtaining a new permit.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The 2006 lake rehabilitation program went through a series of 4 public informational meetings as well as the SEPA process. Thirty-two people attended the meetings; 10 testified in opposition and 6 in favor of the treatments. Sixty additional comments were received by mail, email and telephone, with 4 opposed and 56 in favor of the treatments. One family unsuccessfully protested the Park and Blue Lakes treatments to the Water Pollution Control Board.

Actions requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

None

Draft motion language:

None

Justification for Commission action:

None